

LONDON DOCKS.

18

LONDON TAVERN, 5th January, 1796.

At a General Meeting of the Subscribers to a Fund for forming WET DOCKS at *Wapping*, and a Canal from *Blackwall*, held here this Day,

EDWARD FORSTER, Esq. in the Chair.

The Chairman communicated to the Meeting the following Report :

AT a GENERAL MEETING of the Merchants of *London*. in the Month of March, 1794, they were so fully convinced of the Inconveniences and Injury the Trade of the Port of *London* sustained, and had sustained, from a Period as early as the beginning of this Century, from the confined Limits of the Wharfs, and the crouded State of the River, that a Committee was named to consider what might be a proper Remedy ; who, after much Attention given to the Business, were of Opinion that, among the many Plans which had been submitted to their Consideration, that, for forming Wet Docks at *Wapping*, with Wharfs on their Borders, was likely to be the most effectual in removing the Inconveniences which checked the increasing Trade of the Port of *London*.

This Opinion they reported to a General Meeting of Merchants in March, 1795, which was approved by them ; and the Committee were desired to take into Consideration the Propriety of opening a Canal through the *Isle of Dogs*, from *Blackwall* to the Docks in *Wapping* ; which, having done, they found Themselves warranted, by the Information of able and experienced Surveyors, who were employed to make actual Surveys, and by the Opinion of the Gentlemen of the Corporation of the Trinity House, to state both these Plans as practicable ; and recommended a Subscription to be opened for the Sum of £. 800,000 to carry them into Execution, which was subscribed on the 22d. and 23d. December, 1795.

It becomes now expedient that, the Subscribers should be informed, what has been considered as proper to be submitted to Parliament to obtain the Sanction of the Legislature for instituting the Corporation of the DOCK COMPANY to carry on the Works necessary to form Docks, which may, when completed, contain 388 Ships of 400 Tons Burthen and upwards, with Room for Shifting and Lighters ; and, the further Accommodation of a large Lighter Dock, communicating with the River and the Docks.

IT IS PROPOSED,

THAT the Subscribers should be a corporate Body, to be called, the LONDON DOCK COMPANY ; to have Succession, a common Seal, and the usual Privileges of a corporate Body.

That an annual Election of Twenty-four Directors should be made by Ballot, who shall from among Themselves, appoint a Chairman, and a deputy Chairman.

That no Person shall be qualified to be chosen a Director, unless possessed of One thousand Pounds Stock in his own Right.

That the Stock shall be saleable, and transferable.

That no Proprietor's Estate shall be liable to any Call, or other Demand, beyond the Amount of the Stock he shall be possessed of.

That the Stock of the Company shall not be liable to any foreign Attachment.

That no Dividend shall, at any Time, exceed Ten per Cent. per Annum; and, that when the Dividends shall amount to that Rate, the River and Dock Duties shall be reduced; unless it should be necessary to reserve any Surplus for contingent Improvements.

That a Proprietor possessed of £. 500 Stock, shall have One Vote; £. 1000, Two Votes, £. 5000, Three Votes; and £. 10,000, four Votes; and none to have more than Four Votes.

That all Questions shall, if required, be determined by Ballot; the Chairman having voted as a Proprietor, in Case of an Equality of Numbers, to have the casting Vote.

That if the Capital shall not be found sufficient, the Company may borrow a limited Sum, and assign the Rates as a Security.

That no Call shall exceed Ten per Cent. at any one Time; and no Call shall be made within Two Months of a former Call.

That Proprietors neglecting to pay any Call for Two Months shall forfeit Five Pounds for every £. 100 Stock; and, if any Call be neglected for more than Two Months, after Notice given, their whole Shares and Interest in the Undertaking shall be forfeited; unless otherwise determined at a General Meeting of Proprietors.

That the Value of the Premises to be purchased shall be settled by a Jury, unless agreed on by the Parties.

That Rates (with some Exceptions) shall be paid by Ships coming into, and going from the Port of *London*.

That the Rates shall be deemed a Port Charge.

That the Wharfs shall be made legal Quays.

RESOLVED,

THAT the following Persons be a Committee for carrying into Execution the Plans for forming Wet Docks at *Wapping*, and a Canal from *Blackwall*; and, that they be empowered to add such Persons to their Number as they may judge to be useful to them in the Conduct of the Business.

THOMAS BAINBRIDGE, Esq.
JOHN BEACH, Esq.
H. M. BIRD, Esq.
THOMAS BODDINGTON, Esq.
SAMUEL BOSANQUET, Esq.
JOHN BRICKWOOD, Esq.
ALEXANDER CHAMPION, Esq.
CHRISTOPHER COURT, Esq.
ROBERT CURLING, Esq.
JOHN DEFFEL, Esq.
WILLIAM DEVAYNES, Esq.
JOHN DUNNAGE, Esq.
SIR JOHN EAMER.
EDWARD FORSTER, Esq.
SIR RICHARD CARR GLYN.
CHARLES GRANT, Esq.
GEORGE HIBBERT, Esq.
JONATHAN HOARE, Esq.
JOSEPH HUDDART, Esq.

ROBERT HUNTER, Esq.
JOHN INGLIS, Esq.
THOMAS KING, Esq.
WILLIAM LEIGHTON, Esq.
BEESTON LONG, Esq.
JOHN LYALL, Esq.
SIR RICHARD NEAVE, BART.
JOHN PERRY, Esq.
ROBERT PRESTON, Esq.
CHARLES PRICE, Esq.
WILLIAM RAIKES, Esq.
JAMES REED, Esq.
G. L. REED, Esq.
ABRAHAM ROBARTS, Esq.
PHILIP SANSOM, Esq.
WILLIAM VAUGHAN, Esq.
JOHN WHITMORE, Esq.
JAMES WILLIAMS, Esq.

RESOLVED,

THAT they be desired to prepare a Petition to Parliament, for Leave to bring in a Bill.

RESOLVED,

THAT they do prepare a Bill for constituting the Subscribers a Corporate Body; and for other Purposes proposed by the Subscription.

RESOLVED,

THAT they may be empowered to take such Steps as they may judge most expedient to promote the Progress of the Bill through Parliament.

RESOLVED,

THAT under the Direction of the Committee, an immediate Call be made of Five per Cent. on the Sums subscribed, to be paid into the Bank of *England*.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee, or any Sub-Committee, to be by them appointed, be empowered to draw on the Bank of *England* for such Sums as may be necessary for current Expences.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee be empowered to appoint a Solicitor, or Solicitors, Surveyor, or Surveyors, Clerks and Assistants, and generally to pursue all such Measures as they may judge expedient to promote the great Purpose of the Subscription, until an Act of Parliament shall pass to form the Subscribers into a Corporation.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee be desired to send to the City of *London* a Copy of the proposed *London Dock* and Canal Bill, as soon as it is perfected.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, Treasurer, and Committee, who have prepared the Business for this Meeting.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to WILLIAM VAUGHAN, Esq. for the Assiduity, Attention, and Ability he has manifested in the Assistance he has given during the Progress of the Business.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Thanks of this Meeting be given to EDWARD FORSTER, Esq. for his able Conduct in the Chair.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Proceedings of the Day be advertised in the public Papers.

EDWARD FORSTER, Chairman.



